

Message Text

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43

ACTION OIC-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-10 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03

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R 301539Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1524

UNCLAS LONDON 08162

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, AFIN

SUBJ: SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE FOR COFFEE COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 24-JULY 11

REF: A) LONDON 5337 APRIL 9, 1975

B) THIGPEN-INGERSOLL LETTER MAY 21, 1975

1. IN CONFIRMING ARRANGEMENTS FOR APRIL, 1975 MEETING OF COFFEE COUNCIL EMBASSY INFORMED DEPARTMENT IN REF (A) THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE TO LARGE US DELEGATION FROM AMONG OUR OWN AMERICAN SECRETARIAL STAFF. WHEN FUNDS WERE AUTHORIZED FOR PURPOSE, EMBASSY EMPLOYED DEPENDENT WIFE OF FSO ON TEMPORARY BASIS TO WORK FULL-TIME FOR THE DELEGATION.

2. SIMILAR SITUATION REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF FOREIGN SERVICE SECRETARIES EXISTS AT THIS TIME, FURTHER EXACERBATED BY ABSENCE OF ONE SECRETARY ON TDY, SCHEDULED ABSENCES FROM POST ON HOLIDAY IN SUMMER PERIOD, AND PHYSICAL LOCATOR OF OFFICES WIT/IN CHANCERY WHICH PRECLUDES SECRETARIAL COVERAGE OF MORE THAN ONE OFFICE AREA.

3. REGRETTABLY, THOROUGH CANVASSING OF QUALIFIED DEPENDENTS OF EMPLOYEES INTERESTED IN WORKING ON TEMPORARY BASIS FOR COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 24-JULY 11 HAS PRODUCED TOTALLY NEGATIVE RESULTS THUS FAR, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF PENDING DEPARTURES FROM POST, SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND FAMILY

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SUMMER TRAVEL PLANS.

4. EMBASSY THEREFORE URGES DEPARTMENT PLAN TO INCLUDE EXPERIENCED SECRETARY TO TRAVEL FROM WASHINGTON WITH DELEGATION, AS SUGGESTED IN REF (B), TO STAFF DELEGATION' OFFICES FOR PERIOD OF CONFERENCE. EMBASSY PERSONNEL WILL OF COURSE BE PLEASED OFFER SECRETARY NECESSARY ORIENTATION IN CHANCERY UPON HER ARRIVAL IN LONDON.

5. REQUEST TELEGRAPHIC RESPONSE.

SPIERS

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